

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-6 and 17-19 are pending in this application, and stand rejected. By this amendment, all of the pending claims 1, 3-6 and 17-19 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 20-26 are added. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Rejections

Claims 1, 3-5, 13 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over EP1271404A2 to Nakami ("Nakami") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,816,193 to Kohashi et al. ("Kohashi").

As indicated above, claims 1, 3-5, 13 and 17-19 have been cancelled thereby rendering the rejections directed to these claims moot.

New Claims

New claims 20-26 have been added to recite the invention in an alternative manner. Applicant notes that new claim 20 features the elements of canceled claims 1 and 5, claims 21-23 feature the elements of canceled claims 3, 4, 6, respectively, and claims 24-26 features the elements of canceled claims 17-19, respectively.

Specifically, new claim 20 is directed to an information processing method comprising, *inter alia*, selecting automatically signal processing to be used from among the plurality of types of signal processing based upon an extension indicating a format of the file to be processed, and selecting, if the signal processing cannot be selected based on the extension, the signal processing based on specific information of an image sensing apparatus including product

information specifying an apparatus that generates the file, configuration of image sensing device that generates the file and color-filter information specifying a color filter used by the image sensing device that are contained in the file. Another new independent claim 26 recites similar features in an apparatus claim.

Applicant believes that neither Nakami nor Kohashi teaches the above aspects of the present invention as featured in new claims. For example, Nakami teaches selecting types of processing based on description of the Marker Note. Kohashi teaches selecting types of processing based on information acquired from the image data to be processed, such as color information by each pixel signal of image signals, average color information of a whole image, average color information of one whole frame from specific sampling data of image signals.

However, both Nakami and Kohashi fail to teach or suggest, e.g., selecting signal processing to be used based on an extension indicating a format of the file to be processed as required by the new claims. Moreover, both Nakami and Kohashi fail to teach or suggest selecting the signal processing based on information contained in the file, which specifies an apparatus that generates the file, a configuration of image sensing device that generates the file or a color filter used by the image sensing device, if the signal processing cannot be selected based on the extension, as specifically recited in the new claims.

Accordingly, new claims 20-26 are believed patentable over the cited references (i.e., Nakami and Kohashi), either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Applicant has chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. However, these statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact,

prior art.

Applicant believes that the application as amended including the new claim is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

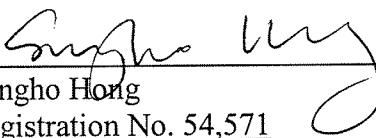
No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-5348). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: February 7, 2008

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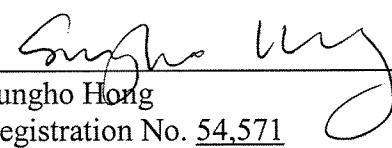
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